

SN. 10/757,040

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MLPO:002

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A vehicle body structure comprising:

a pair of side members extending in a longitudinal direction of a vehicle; and
a floor panel forming an accommodation concavity disposed between said pair of side members,

said side members and said floor panel being joined together,
wherein said side members each are U-shaped, with an opening of the U-shape facing upward, and having a pair of substantially vertical first side surface portions,

wherein said floor panel has a bottom surface portion serving as a bottom surface of said accommodation concavity, and substantially vertical second side portions extending in a substantially vertical direction from said first bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to said first side surface portions, and

wherein ~~each of said~~ the substantially vertical first side surface portions of said pair of side members facing opposite to each other and positioned nearest to each other are is- positioned adjacent to and joined to ~~one of said~~ substantially vertical second side portions.

2. *(Canceled)*

3. *(Previously Presented)* A vehicle body structure comprising:

a pair of side members extending in a longitudinal direction of a vehicle; and
a floor panel forming an accommodation concavity disposed between said pair of side members,

wherein said side members and said floor panel are joined together at substantially vertical surfaces,

wherein each of said side members has a substantially vertical first side surface portion,
and

wherein said floor panel is composed of:

a first floor panel having a first bottom surface portion serving as a bottom surface of said accommodation concavity, and second side surface portions extending in a substantially vertical direction from said first bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to said first side surface portions, and

second floor panels each having a second bottom surface portion placed above said side member, and a third side surface portion extending in a substantially vertical direction from

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said second bottom surface portion and placed adjacent to and outwardly of said first side surface portion in a vehicle width direction, and

wherein said first side surface portion, said second side surface portion, and said third side surface portion are joined together.

4. (*Original*) The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein said first floor panel and said second floor panels are independent of each other.

5. (*Previously Presented*) The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein a flange portion extending toward an interior of the vehicle is formed at an upper end of said third side surface portion, and an upper end of said first side surface portion and an upper end of said second side surface portion are disposed below said flange portion.

6. (*Previously Presented*) The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein a flange portion extending toward an exterior of the vehicle is formed at an upper end of said second side surface portion, and an upper end of said first side surface portion and an upper end of said third side surface portion are disposed below said flange portion.

7. (*Previously Presented*) The vehicle body structure according to claim 5 or 6, wherein a sealing member is mounted between said flange portion and the upper end of said first side surface portion and the upper end of said second side surface portion, or between said flange portion and the upper end of said first side surface portion and the upper end of said third side surface portion.

8. (*Currently Amended*) The vehicle body structure according to any one of claims [[1]]3 to 6, wherein a folding vehicle seat is accommodated in said accommodation concavity.

9. (*New*) The vehicle body structure according to claim 1, wherein a folding vehicle seat is accommodated in said accommodation concavity.